



THE ATMOSPHERIC RESERVOIR

Examining the Atmosphere and Atmospheric Resource Management

Radar coverage boosted in western North Dakota

by Bruce Boe

With the beginning of the county-sponsored North Dakota Cloud Modification Project (NDCMP) in June, expanded weather radar coverage is again available to all interested parties via the Internet. The Atmospheric Resource Board is again posting composite radar images from the NDCMP radars located in Stanley and Bowman. New images are available four times each hour, in near real-time, at the following address:

<http://www.swc.state.nd.us/ARB/html/radar.html>

Persons accessing the images should keep several things in mind. The key to the 17 colors used to indicate the storm intensity is not included as part of each image, but is displayed at the Internet address above. Persons who refer frequently to the images may wish to print out the color scale and attach it to the edge of their monitors.

The time of each image is displayed in the upper left hand corner, in local time. Therefore, the Stanley radar images are recorded in Central Daylight Time, and the *Bowman images in Mountain Daylight Time.*

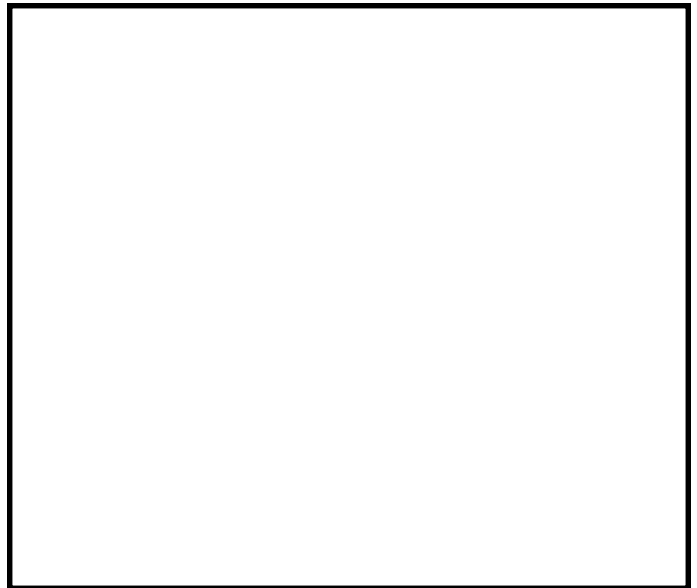
The image itself is not created by a single 360-degree sweep of the project radar at a fixed elevation angle. Instead, a computer processes twenty sequential 360-degree scans at varying antenna elevation angles, to form a single image which displays the greatest reflected radar signal observed at any altitude.

The radars are fairly sensitive, and so will detect and display some clouds which are not producing precipitation. Usually, the display of dark gray, dark purple, and green colors will indicate cloud mass, but little if any precipitation.

The radar data are recorded and archived for most-season analysis. The project is presently scheduled to run through the end of August, but may be extended into September if significant crop is still unharvested at that time. ■



Bowman Radar, 1999.



Stanley Radar, 1999.

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